olume XV Chicago, Ill., September, 1938 Number 6

The Liberalist

I hope I may live long enough to see a return to sanity in the life of governments. But in any case the ideal will not be lost. Flouted and sneered at, battered and buried, it will come up again and work to find victory.

—T. RHONDDA WILLIAMS.

Published monthly by

The Peoples Church

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THE LIBERALIST

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Volume XV Chicago, Ill., September, 1938 Number 6

OPENING SERVICE

27th YEAR

PEOPLES CHURCH OF CHICAGO

941 Lawrence at Sheridan

REV. PRESTON BRADLEY, LLD.
Will Preach

SUNDAY, SEPT. 18th, 11 A. M.

Subject:

"LET'S DECLARE WAR!"

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES CORDIALLY INVITE EVERY MEMBER, FRIEND AND RADIO LISTENER. MAY DR. BRADLEY GREET THE LARGEST CONGREGATION IN HIS LONG PASTORATE. HE HAS BEEN ABROAD THIS SUMMER AND HIS ADDRESSES WILL BE TIMELY.

BROADCAST BY W J J D

LETTER FROM DR. BRADLEY

Lake Vermilion
Black Duck, Island
Tower, Minn.
Labor Day, 1938

Dear "Liberalist" Reader:

It is an autumn day here in the north country. The birch leaves are turning to gold, a cold wind blows from the north, my little wood-fire in the study fireplace is a welcome and most friendly companion—a flock of mallards whirred by the island as I walked down the trail to the study—yes—it's a perfect fall day. There are myriads of other sights and sounds which bring two very separate emotions. Sadness—for summer is over for me—gladness for the fall which means Chicago and our beloved Church. So we're homeward bound!

I am returning to my work — refreshed, rested, strengthened and was never more desirous of doing the best work I have ever done. The turmoil of the whole world, the multiplicity of the variety of problems, the anxiety of universal proportions, the struggles and cares of people—all create a deeper need for a church like ours than ever before. My constant concern is one of direct challenge to me. How can I meet this responsibility? Every sign-post points to a winter of unusual events, decisions and affairs. Our church must not fail her high destiny. With all my heart I am asking for your co-operation, your loyalty, your support, your inspiration, your tolerance and your attendance.

Will you think of this as a personal invitation to attend our opening service—Sunday morning September 18 at 11 o'clock? I have chosen a somewhat daring subject, ***"Let's Declare War."*** Nearly 10,000 miles of land and sea have I seen this summer. I have met and talked with many people here and abroad. I am sure the subject will be interesting to you.

Radio Station WJJD will broadcast the entire service, but please attend if possible. I will miss you if you are not there. With heartfelt appreciation for all you have done in the past and with a desire to be a help and inspiration to all people I say "Goodbye" until Sunday morning September 18th.

Hoping to see you without fail I am
Your friend and pastor
Preston Bradley

MEDITATION

"Infinite Heart, the desire of our hearts and the petition which we would frame upon our lips in this opportunity of communion with Thee and with Thy eternal, divine Heart, would be petitions and prayers of gratitude and of love. We are so grateful that as life evolves and develops we can sense a mastery of adjustment and harmony which enables us to overcome and to meet successfully every presented circumstance of life.

And so this morning, while the sun does not shine and the skies are leaden and there is a slight lingering presence of days that were cold and chilly, we are glad that these externals have no power in preventing us from that deep association and that attractive unity with that which is of eternal character and quality. And so, while we become the voice in this service which we love, in these moments of articulation, might we be able to garner up the emotions of every heart and every life into one unified expression of gratitude and love.

We are deeply grateful for every hour of life, and that means for the sad hours too, that means for the dark days, that means for the stormy days, we are glad for life, and might we, as we contemplate the universe, of which we are a part, in the deliberations of this morning together, might we try to see that by this interpretation and understanding we can become partakers of the great Over-Life, the Over-Soul behind all life. It is that that we would seek this morning, to be kinsmen of the eternal, to know that nothing we have said or done has destroyed our relationship with Thee; that we are a part of the laws and the forces and the principles which in their ceaseless energizing power maintain the integrity of the cosmos; that we are not out of harmony with them and not out of adjustment to that truth, and if there are those who are trying to find life's expression in the participation of those practices, habits, customs and conduct that prevent this sense of the eternal, while they listen, might some word be spoken, and while they hear, some note of music be given, something that will turn the emphasis of life away from the dregs and away from the scum and mire of life and point them toward the infinite blue of Thy divine love.

If there is some heart just now, here or listening, that is fed up with life, everything seems to have gone wrong, happiness has been turned into misery, disappointment, sorrow, might the contagion of this hour which we are trying to stimulate as we reach out for Thy heart and hand, might they feel it and know its presence through the miracle of the air, or through actual presence in the Church itself. We want this hour to be an hour when some human life will experience the beauty of transformation, and we express our gratitude for every living thing, for the beasts of the forests, the little denizens of the wild, the comradeship of dumb animals, the glory and beauty of birds, the agility and charm of the fishes of the deep, the friendship of men and women, the gladness of little children. Ah, what a beautiful world Thou hast placed us in! Help us never to mar it, never to scar it, never to pollute it, never to be unkind. Help us to become creators together with Thee and to make our world still more beautiful, and to make love still more triumphant. We breathe this petition of our hearts in the memory of Thy great utterance which for all time shall be the standard by which men pray:

"Our Father, who art in heaven'," etc.

"THE GOD OF THE OUT-OF-DOORS"

Sermon by Dr. Preston Bradley, Pastor of The Peoples Church of Chicago, April 24, 1938.

"There are few Sundays in the entire Church year which I look forward to with more enthusiasm and interest and pleasant anticipation than Out-door Sunday. But when I realized that this particular Out-door Sunday was to take place on the same day that Chicago changed to daylight savings time, then I had some misgivings, and I am delightfully surprised to see the size of the congregation this morning. I did not know that there were so many people who really would turn their clocks ahead. We had one woman this morning come to the Church two hours early. I don't know what she did to her clock, but she was quite sure that she had done the right thing and all day long people are making discoveries about this time business and there is the confusion which inevitably results from this change in time.

Not only is this an important Sunday for our Church due to the fact that it is Out-door Sunday on which I attempt to speak on the out-of-doors and preserving some aspects of the rapidly disappearing out-of-doors of America, or some aspect of conservation, not only is it our Out-door Sunday which always follows the National Convention of the Izaak Walton League of America, but it is also the first day of the week which begins the 'Be Kind to Dumb Animals Week,' and it seems apropos that these two Sundays should come together and that they should synchronize in our thought of the morning. The Humane Societies in the Chicago area are opening today their 24th annual 'Be Kind to Dumb Animals Week.'

Under the sponsorship of the American Humane Association, it was my privilege last year to address the National Convention of the American Humane Association at its meeting in Milwaukee, and I met hundreds of people from all over this country who were interested in the propaganda of attempting to create and stimulate the right kind of attitude on the part of the people toward dumb animals It was twenty-four years ago that Henry W. Lewith, a linotype operator in Charleston, South Carolina, conceived the idea that special emphasis should be given to being kind to dumb animals. This proposition grew to a National Association which adopted it and it has spread to more than 600 organizations. Dr. W. A. Young, Mgr. of the Anti-Cruelty Society, 157 West Grand Avenue, this city, stated yesterday that he had sent out 1700 requests to the clergymen of this city urging them to give a special message of kindliness to their congregations this morning. The City also will present a Humane Educational Thought Program tomorrow in its auditorium. Now, if you have never visited the Chicago Branch of the Humane Society, why not, some day, between 9:00 and 5:00 o'clock on week days, or from 9:00 o'clock to 1:00 o'clock on Saturdays, visit the headquarters of the Chicago Association. And then near by, in our own North Shore District in Chicago, we have the North Side Animal Shelter at 5450 Damen Avenue, and you are invited to visit that shelter at any time. But that is not the only important day that this day is, it is also the beginning of National Brotherhood Week, so we have the beginning of Be Kind to Dumb Animals and the National Brotherhood Week, and the Out-door Sunday of our Church. Do you see anything incongruous in these three things being associated together on the

same day? I don't. Not at all, and any critic which might be in the Church this morning, or listening, will say: 'Well, why does Dr. Bradley associate Brotherhood, Be Kind to Animals Week, and Out-door Sunday all on one occasion?' I think, if you will give it a little thought and just a little care and thoughtful attention, you will see why I have done so.

Last year, in the City of Chicago, on 'Be Kind to Dumb Animals' Sunday, this was the only pulpit, and I was the only preacher, out of 1700 churches and ministers, that even mentioned the subject at all. It is incredible to me that anybody can become so interested in religion as applied to the area of human association that their religion is not sufficiently inclusive to also incorporate the animal life which is a part of the world. My dog's life, and I have three dogs, and I wish I had thirty, because I never see a dog that I do not love, mad or not. Every little while while we have a 'mad dog' scare in Chicago. Of course, the mad dogs that we have are usually driven mad by mad people. It is mad people that make dogs mad. In hot weather when dogs are on the streets with no access to water and are abandoned—one of the cruelest things in the world, as cruel as almost anything I can imagine, is the cruelty of people who will abandon pets. Little things, in their limited world, who have learned to love and serve you and be kind, and you become cruel and abandon them! I am going to say something now that I may be severely criticized for saying, but I cannot help it—I am going to say something that may fit, and if the shoe fits anybody listening to me or anybody in this Church you put it on wear it and I hope it pinches for there is nothing more uncomfortable than a pinching shoe, and I hope, if it fits, that it pinches.

I have known Christians who could pray so eloquently and beautifully and get a tremolo in their voice that would seem as though they were related to God intimately, they will stand in meetings and testify about their experiences, how their souls are saved, that they have been washed in the blood of Jesus and he has washed away their sins. I have heard them, and they will criticize people who don't go to church and they will criticize people for everything on earth that they can think of, they haven't a kind word about a fisherman, particularly if he fishes on Sunday, they are supercritical and hypercritical of everybody, but they are so full with the love of the Lord that they are waxing enthusiastically to get everybody saved, and they go out and can be unkind to a dog or abusive to a cat!

A person's religion, to me, is very largely dependent, for my judgment of their religion, on how they treat people, and animals as well, and probably the bitterness which you cannot help but detect in this reaction of mine this morning is due to the fact that I had an experience once with one of them, and I am going to tell you about it. If you cannot stand to listen to it, switch your dial, because it is a true story, and it is pretty mean.

I never remember the time when I did not love the out-of doors, and in that respect I have been very fortunate. I never remember the time when I would not rather be out-of-doors than indoors, and I never am indoors if I can be out-of-doors, right now, even today. There is nothing which thrills me, inspires me, which lifts, tones and elevates me like the out-of-doors. We are becoming indoor people and it is doing something to us, it is doing something to the nation, it is doing something to the world, and I was fortunate in having been born in a pastoral community. The litle town where I came from never had over 500 people in it, that is enough, and in this little

town of 500 people we had access to the out-of-doors, and only this week that has just past, I took a canoe trip on my little river, the river that I learned to swim in as a boy, that I learned to skate on in the winter, and the skates were made by my father, and he taught me to swim—he was that kind of a father, he had time to do it, and on that little river I floated this week in a canoe. I visited the first vistas of many years of boyhood scenes. My trees, why, they have been there waiting for me for more than forty years, and every tree knew me! Oh, you supercritical and hypercritical, sophisticated city folks, you may not know what I am talking about, and I don't expect you will, but I know what I am talking about, my trees were waiting for me, they were there, the same old trees and seemed just as glad to see me as trees could be. And the music of that little stream as it gurgled its rythmic melody and symphony of sound over the rocks, same music, same beauty, my out-of-doors as a boy!

Well, I had a dog those days, and this is the story, and if I don't say anything else today this is important. I have never been without a dog, not the same dog of course, because I have lost a great many dogs, but I have never been without a dog. There is a certain fascination, and it may be man's egotism, I don't know, that he receives out of the devotion of a dog, and it seems to me that every boy should know, early, that kind of devotion. I look askance at the environment in which many pets are kept in the cities, and I am not advocating anything. foolish because I understand the tragedy of such environment, but I don't think that any boy ought to be deprived the comradeship, the loyalty, the devotion that comes from a dog. Do you know why? Not merely for a gratification of their emotional instincts, that is important, for every child must have a properly regulated emotional outlet, and when you see a boy in trouble such as Theodore Danielson is in today in this city, and that boy who yesterday in Wilmette, only finishing public school, fourteen years of age, put a revolver against his body in the anxiety to solve the mystery of what death was like, whenever you find a twisted, distorted, abnormal conduct on the part of a child, you will always find that somewhere in the background is an emotional disturbance and an emotional upheaval and that the child has not had the proper opportunity in which to function normally in his emotional world. He may have been fed good food, he may have been given great maternal and paternal care, he may have had all the environment that you would naturally think of as having physical importance, but there is a greater background to the life of the adolescent other than these things can possibly or adequately care for, and that is in the field of his emotive personality, and when I see boys on the street, as I saw this morning and as I see them when I go out quite frequently, playing with guns, wearing masks over their faces, fathers taking pride in the fact that their boy is mimicking a gangster, I shudder. I do not blame the boy, that is a normal propensity of an emotional experience in the life of a child; I blame the parents who take pride in a potential gangster, and there is many a father that is creating for himself later tragedy by that sort of thing. I wish that it would be a federal law that no child could be privileged or permitted to have or possess any costume, any firearms, that in any sense of the word would give that child an imaginative reality of the glamour and romance of a life of crime. Don't you buy your child a G-man badge! Don't you think for a moment that many of the stories of crime, and many that you hear on the radio, while they are meant well to show that the criminal is always caught

and always punished, and he is, there is a response which the child has to that set-up that the lesson itself is destroyed. For you, an adult mind, you understand it, but for the child mind it is still a glamorous thing, and if you are the kind of a father that when you come home at night, your little son, that you are so proud of and you think that it means that he is so virile and manly, meets you at the top of the stairs, or at the front door, with a mask over his face, and sticks a toy revolver, which you bought him, up against you and he says: 'Don't move, it's a stick-up!' and you think that's cute, and you think that's fine, my father friend, with all the spirit which I can command, I beg, I implore, I plead, that you stop that kind of business with your son! Stop it now, you are planting impressive patterns in the psychological life of that child which will cause your heart to be bowed in shame some of these days. I do not speak from conjecture, I can tell you of many incidents that are real as proof of the statement. A child that is given the privilege of cultivating the comradeship of a dog or a pet and has learned how to be kind toward that which is helpless when left to themselves, is developing a sensitiveness of values which later on is going to give that child a definite standard. Is there anything more ignoble in the world than cruelty? Trace the history of the youthful criminal and almost without exception they are, by instinct, cruel. Cruelty and crime go together, and you cannot teach a boy or a girl kindness, and you cannot teach them to love a living thing and teach them to be kind to that thing but what you are doing society and yourselves a distinct service. If I could bring that home to this audience, seen and unseen, this morning, I should have said enough—KINDNESS!

And here is another thing, and I will tell the story, don't worry, I am going to tell the story, I know you are worried about it, but I am going to tell it. I cannot refuse this story, but I must say this: when I see so many Christians on Easter Sunday and on the festive occasions of the Eastertide, giving their children little rabbits and little chicks, and all kinds of living things, to live under environment which means ultimately death, I cannot understand the Christianity. You say, 'Well, what about it? What about a little rabbit, what about a little chick? Thousands of little chicks have died this week in Chicago; they were presents last Sunday to children — little chickens, and they starved, not from lack of food, but from the wrong food. They died, they are dead now, and how any parent can think they are conferring an Easter favor by giving something which is going to die from lack of proper care and attention, that does not harmonize at all with my conception of Christianity. Do you know what that is? That's paganism, that's paganism, it is not Christianity at all, just being pure pagan.

So, when I was a little lad I had the opportunity and the privilege of having the earliest thing which I learned to love in the world of animal life, and it was a great big black New Foundland dog. Some day I am going to show you a picture of me and that dog, I have got one. I had on a little velvet dress—imagine that and that dog was so big, and so fine, and so beautiful, and so loyal, that may mother used to tie me to the dog and then send the dog to my father's blacksmith's shop, which was over a quarter of a mile away from our house, and that dog would trot down the little village street, with me tied to it, and with a note tied to me, to my father's blacksmith's shop, and then we would bring back home whatever the note said that we should do, or whatever errand

that we should perform. And I learned to ride that dog. The first saddle horse I ever knew, and I have known many since, the first saddle horse was a dog. I used to ride my dog. I stood at his grave this week, at that dog's grave and he has been buried ah, these many years, and all the memories and recollections poured back again into my heart. That dog worshipped me, and I idolized him, and one day coming home from school — he always would come to the schoolhouse door and wait for me, and the school was right close to our home, but he was there. Haven't you seen a dog lingering around a playground, I have seen it even in Chicago, looking for its little master? My big, black, beautiful Prince would stand at the door of the school waiting for me to come, and those beautiful eyes— you talk about the eye being the window of the soul, of course it is, your soul and mine, every person's eyes are the windows of the soul, and a dog's eye is the window of their soul too. Why not? The same principle that Bergson tells us that keeps the heart — and Oh, won't I be criticised for this this week—the same principle that keeps the heart of my dog beating like that in his breast is the same principle that keeps my heart beating. Heart beats are heart beats, man or beast. Of course, they are. And one afternoon I missed my dog, he was not there, and I ran home and he heard me coming, he was under a lilac bush at the side of our little home. There he was, pawing the earth, frothing at the mouth, his big beautiful eyes looking up at me as though he were saying: 'I couldn't make it, little pal, I couldn't make it today, something is the matter.' I called my mother, and then the veterinarian came, and in a little while in one last magnificent gesture of love, he raised his great black paw as though to caress me, and his heart stopped and his noble head fell lifeless in my lap. Agony, tears? Of course, why not? And then I discovered that a dear Christian lady, devoted to her Church, loyal to her God, had poisoned my dog. She was one of the most outstanding Christians in our little community, and when I went to her with my heart bitter and said to her, 'Why did you do this thing?' What do you suppose she said? 'Well, Preston, your father works hard, you know he pounds iron, he is a blacksmith and he works very hard, and that dog would eat as much as any person, and I thought it my Christian duty to spare your father the task of feeding that great big dog, he is better off dead.' I turned from that woman and never spoke to her again—she had poisoned my dog!

As, Christianity is not prayers, is not creeds, is not form, is not ceremony, Christianity is what Christ said it was, **LOVE**, and if we don't love every living, growing, beautiful thing, then there is no church, Catholic, Jewish, or Protestant, there is no creed, Catholic, Jewish or Protestant, that can save anybody, we are saved by what we do and not by what we say we believe!"

Dr. Preston Bradley

DR. BRADLEY'S BOOKS

In commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the pastorate of Dr. Bradley, Bobbs-Merrill, Publishers of Indianapolis and New York published the last volume written by Dr. Bradley entitled "Power From Right Thinking." This book is dedicated to the congregation of the church and makes a lasting memento of the anniversary. The book may be purchased in any of the better book stores, and department store book sections in this country. If you are not near a book store orders may be sent direct to the publisher at Indianapolis.

The two former books: "Courage For Today" and "Mastering Fear" are also available. The price is $1.50 per volume. These three books contain the philosophy of our pastor which in the spoken word have inspired and helped so many people. They occupy a place all their own in inspirational contemporary literature.

THE CHURCH BAZAAR

The Annual Bazaar of The Peoples Church will be held Dec. 1st and 2nd in Channing Hall. Every member and friend of the church, all the allied organizations and the radio friends are cordially urged to co-operate in making this the best bazaar ever held by The Peoples Church.

Anything saleable, particularly practical articles will be acceptable. There will be booths for—Aprons — Kitchenware — Pillow Cases — Handkerchiefs — Fancy Work — Utility Bags — Towels—Dolls — Flowers — Miscellaneous Articles — Quilts — Cakes, Pies, Jellies, etc., and a "White Elephant."

Dinners will be served by the Woman's Club of the Church both evenings, and luncheon both days at noon. Plan now on attending and enjoying the bazaar.

Send your donation to Dr. Preston Bradley, 941 Lawrence Ave. The Church office is open daily during business hours, closing Saturdays at noon. Will you help make the bazaar a success?

• • •

NEW MEMBERS

The Peoples Church of Chicago holds a public recognition service for all who have united with the church during the preceding month on the first Sunday morning of every month. Those persons who are in sympathy with the work which this church is trying to do may signifiy their desire for membership by applying to the pastor or the church office any time during the month. Radio listeners who may desire membership may write to the church office or to the pastor. Members do not subscribe to any fixed creed or statement of faith. We respect the right of individual thinking on all matters of religion. Nor is there any fixed dues or pledges required. These are individual matters and the church believes in leaving them entirely to the individual.

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